

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 38

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Keifer Helle, park manager of David Crockett Birthplace State Park.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those dedicated state park professionals who improve the physical, mental, and emotional health of Tennesseans by engaging them with the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, one such worthy individual is Keifer Helle, park manager of David Crockett Birthplace State Park, who has the distinction of being the youngest park manager in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Greeneville High School, Mr. Helle attended East Tennessee State University, where his initial desire to study architecture gave way to a degree in sports and recreation management with a concentration in park management; in addition to his courses, he completed summer internships at David Crockett State Park and Warrior's Path State Park; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, in 2014, Keifer Helle was hired as a full-time park ranger with Standing Stone State Park; the following year, he transferred to Roan Mountain State Park, and in 2019, he accepted the park manager position he currently holds at David Crockett Birthplace State Park; and

WHEREAS, in addition to property management, which includes budgeting to maintain and enhance the 105-acre facility, Park Manager Helle focuses on educational programs that help enhance the experience of what he refers to as the "small park with a big story"; and

WHEREAS, he is also qualified in both law enforcement and wildland firefighting and has basic medical skills, along with emergency medical responder certification; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Helle brings energy and enthusiasm, as well as leadership skills and professional presence, to his position as park manager; he has made a point of learning the local history to better contextualize and communicate the story of David Crockett and his birthplace; and

WHEREAS, Keifer Helle is a devoted professional of rare ability and commitment and richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Keifer Helle for his honorable and astute service as park manager of David Crockett Birthplace State Park and wish him continued success as a steward of one of Tennessee's greatest treasures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.